

the guardian weekly

September 2012

Level » Lower intermediate
Style » Lesson plan



Welcome to the Guardian Weekly's special news-based materials to support learners and teachers of English. Each month, the Guardian Weekly newspaper selects topical news articles that can be used to practise English language skills. The materials are graded for two levels: advanced and lower intermediate. These worksheets can be downloaded free from guardian.co.uk/weekly/. You can also find more advice for teachers and learners from the Guardian Weekly's Learning English section on the site.

Tourists' use of scarce water criticised

Materials prepared by Janet Hardy-Gould

Instructions

Lesson focus: reading; role-play

Materials: article

Time: 55 minutes

- 1 Tell students the article is about exotic holiday destinations. Students work together in pairs to write down examples of such destinations. Can they think of any in the developing world? Class feedback. **4 mins**
- 2 Ask: What are the advantages and disadvantages for the locals at these resorts? Elicit ideas, eg tourists spend money but they also consume resources. Aim to pre-teach useful vocabulary such as: *consumption, shortage, scarce/scarcity, resources, disease, outbreak, inequality*. **6 mins**
- 3 Direct learners to Student task 1. Give out the article. Students read the text and match the sentence halves. Class feedback. **12 mins**
 - a [] The report examined
 - b [] The hotels keep
 - c [] The tourists take
 - d [] The locals use
 - e [] Security guards protect
 - f [] Three people died of
 - 1 several showers.
 - 2 cholera.
 - 3 water pipes.
 - 4 lush gardens.
 - 5 very little water.
 - 6 five resorts.
- 4 Direct students to task 2. They read the article again and complete the sentences Class feedback. **8 mins**
 - a The tourist destinations in the report are in ...
 - b The hotel facilities include ...
 - c The water consumption of local people is ...
 - d The water consumption of tourists is ...
 - e A problem is when hotels contaminate the ...

Answers: a The Gambia, Bali, Zanzibar and India.
b Swimming pools and golf courses. c 93.2 litres per day.
d 3,195 litres per day. e Groundwater.
- 5 Ask students: Would you go to a hotel in a developing world destination? Why/Why not? Encourage class discussion with reference back to the text. **5 mins**
- 6 Divide the class for a roleplay. Half the students are hotel owners, the rest are angry locals. First, students work in their groups. The hotel owners develop arguments about the advantages of tourism and what they already do to save water. The locals note ideas about water problems and what actions the hotels should take to improve the situation. **8 mins**
- 7 Students do the roleplay. Swap pairs and repeat. Class feedback. Which local won the most concessions from the hotel owners? **12 mins**

Answers: a 6 b 4 c 1 d 5 e 3 f 2

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Pool-side at a luxury resort in Africa Alamy

Student tasks

1 Read the article and match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| a <input type="checkbox"/> The report examined | 1 several showers. |
| b <input type="checkbox"/> The hotels keep | 2 cholera. |
| c <input type="checkbox"/> The tourists take | 3 water pipes. |
| d <input type="checkbox"/> The locals use | 4 lush gardens. |
| e <input type="checkbox"/> Security guards protect | 5 very little water. |
| f <input type="checkbox"/> Three people died of | 6 five resorts. |

2 Read the article again and complete these sentences.

- a The tourist destinations in the report are in ...

- b The hotel facilities include ...

- c The water consumption of local people is ...

- d The water consumption of tourists is ...

- e A problem is when hotels contaminate the ...

Article: Tourists' use of scarce water criticised

- The use of fresh water by tourists in developing world destinations is causing local conflict and helping to spread disease, says a report by the charity Tourism Concern.
- The report examined five destinations popular with international tourists - the Gambia, Bali in Indonesia, the islands of Zanzibar off the coast of Tanzania, and Goa and Kerala in India. Researchers found big differences in consumption and access to water between tourists and the local populations.
- "While hotels may have the money and resources to ensure their guests enjoy several showers a day, swimming pools, golf courses, and lush gardens, neighbouring households, small businesses and agricultural producers can regularly endure severe water scarcity," the report said.
- In the resort villages of Kiwengwa and Nungwi in Zanzibar, Tourism Concern's researchers found that tourists were using 16 times more fresh water a day per head than locals. The researchers found that locals used, on average, 93.2 litres of water per day, but in the five-star hotels the daily consumption per room was 3,195 litres.
- The water crisis has led some Zanzibar hotels to use security guards to protect the water pipes leading to their complexes. This follows protests and sabotage attempts by local people who are facing shortages.
- In 2010, an outbreak of cholera in the Zanzibar resort village of Jambiani, was blamed on sewage from hotels contaminating the groundwater. Three local people died in the outbreak.
- Sheela Gracias, a local activist in Goa, told Tourism Concern: "The hotels here all have lush lawns and boreholes. But there is contamination of groundwater and the huge consumption of water by hotels lowers the water table."
- Tourism Concern is calling on the tourism industry, governments and tourists to do something about this problem of "massive inequality".

Original article by Leo Hickman,
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